

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (MORTON, ROGERS), ENRG JA

SUBJ: SECRETARY MORTON'S JAPAN TRIP

SUMMARY: DURING SECRETARY ROGERS MORTON'S TRIP TO JAPAN MAY 9-12 HE ADDRESSED OPENING CEREMONIES OF WORLD PETROLEUM CONGRESS (WPC), HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND MET WITH MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY KOMOTO. SECRETARY'S CLEAR EXPOSITION OF CURRENT US ENERGY POLICIES RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE, AND EXCHANGE WITH MITI OFFICIALS WAS CANDID AND PRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT WPC OPENING CEREMONIES, WHICH ATTENDED BY OVER 4,500 DELEGATES FROM 73 COUNTRIES, FOCUSED ON BENEFITS ACCURING TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FROM PROJECT INDEPENDENCE. PRESS GAVE SPEECH STRAIGHT-FORWARD TREATMENT ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THAT ACCORDED OTHER TWO GUEST SPEAKERS, SOVIET OIL MINISTER SHASHIN AND NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY CHAIRMAN EGHBAL, WHO ALSO DELIVERED UNCONTENTIOUS ADDRESSES.

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2. PRESS CONFERENCE AT JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB WAS

ATTENDED BY ABOUT 70 JAPANESE AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. SECRETARY EASILY FIELDER AENERAPHY NEUTRAL QUESTIONS ON US ENERGY AND COMMERCIAL POLICIES, AND GENTLY BUT EFFECTIVELY DEFLECTED ONE HOSTILE QUESTION RELATING TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. REGARDING HIS CHINA TRIP, SECRETARY MORTON SAID TRIP A PERSONAL ONE BUT HE HOPED HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS ON TRADE MATTERS. PRESS COVERAGE REASONABLY ACCURATE AND UNSENSATIONAL, HIGHLIGHTING NEED FOR AGREED AGENDA BEFORE CONVENING PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE AS WELL AS SECRETARY'S HOPES FOR CONTINUING P/C DIALOG.

3. IN REVIEWING WORLD ENERGY SITUATION AND RESPECTIVE POLICIES, MITI MINISTER KOMOTO AGREED WITH SECRETARY MORTON'S ASSESSMENT THAT OIL PRICES PROBABLY WILL REMAIN AT ABOUT PRESENT LEVELS INTO 1976, AND THAT WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE FOR CONSUMERS TO MOVE AHEAD IN IEA TO REFINE AGREEMENT ON CONCEPT AND MECHANISMS TO PROTECT INVESTMENT IN ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY, ARRIVING AT A SPECIFIC FLOOR PRICE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE DIFFICULT. SECRETARY AND MINISTER ALSO AGREED THAT SINCE MUCH OF RECENT DECLINE IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN BOTH COUNTRIES WAS DUE TO ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, STRONG EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE NECESSARY TO REDUCE WASTE IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION PATTERNS WITHOUT HURTING PRODUCTION. SECRETARY MORTON STRESSED FORD ADMINISTRATION'S STRONG PREFERENCE FOR RELIANCE ON PRICE MECHANISM TO PRODUCE INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES. MITI MINISTER DID NOT COMMENT ON SECRETARY MORTON'S OBSERVATION THAT US WOULD HAVE TO BE SURE THAT IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL SECTORS LIKE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY DO NOT HAVE THEIR SHARE OF DOMESTIC MARKET ERODED BY IMPORTS DURING TRANSITIONAL PERIOD OF RETOOLING TO MORE EFFICIENT GAS CONSUMPTION MODELS. KOMOTO SAID A STUDY ON HOW JAPAN COULD REMAKE ITS ENERGY MIX IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WOULD BE READY BY EARLY JULY. KOMOTO ALSO REAFFIRMED JAPAN'S INTENTION TO BUILD UP OIL RESERVES TO 90 DAY LEVEL OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS.

4. ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, SECRETARY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR DENT WOULD VISIT JAPAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AND ALERTED MITI MINISTER TO PROBABILITY AMB DENT WOULD WISH EXPLORE WITH GOJ POX IBILITY OF DEVELOPING A MINI-PACKAGE IN MTN PERHAPS BY END OF 1975. SECRETARY CITED STANDARDS CODE AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AS PARTICULARLY PROMISING NTB AREAS FOR EARLY AGREEMENT. HODGSON

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